

Olympic dollar a great gift for coin collectors

By Roger Boye



If you have coin collectors on your holiday shopping list, don't fret. Here are suggestions to ensure gift-giving success.

● A 1983-dated dollar commemorating next summer's Olympics in Los Angeles. This is the first Olympic coin ever issued by Uncle Sam, a silver piece weighing more than three-quarters of an ounce. If you buy one, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that \$10 of the price supports the Olympics and the training of athletes.

Some banks and coin dealers are among the official distributors, selling proof specimens for about \$35 each. By the way, it's too late to order directly from the U.S. Mint and still receive the merchandise in time for Christmas.

● Membership in the American Numismatic Association. Even the novice is likely to prize his affiliation with the nation's largest organization of coin collectors. Each of the 40,000-plus members receives the *Numismatist*, a monthly magazine loaded with news.

Dues are \$18 a year for adults and \$10 for persons between ages 11 and 17. For a membership form or other details, write the ANA at 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80901.

● Subscription to a coin newspaper or magazine. The most popular are two weekly newspapers—*Coin World* [\$21 a year; write to P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45365] and *Numismatic News* [\$17.50 a year; write to 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990]. *Coin World* averages at least 88 pages a week; *Numismatic News* about half that total.

One of the best-edited monthly magazines is *COINage*, with offices at 17337 Ventura Blvd., Encino, Calif. 91316. Subscriptions are \$14 annually.

● Bullion gold coins. Collectors of any age would be thrilled by a gift of gold that doesn't have to cost a small fortune. "Bullion coins"—which are saved for their metal content, not for their "rarity"—come in many sizes to fit varied budgets.

The most widely advertised is the South African Krugerrand, an expensive nugget at about \$400 because of its one-ounce weight. But some coin dealers sell smaller pieces, including the Mexican two peso [about \$23] or the Austrian one ducat [about \$47]. A tiny Canadian piece containing a tenth of an ounce of gold costs about \$45.

● Gift certificate from a neighborhood coin store. Most established collectors would rather receive a gift certificate, and thus be able to select their own rare-dates, than receive coins as a gift.